PRESIDENT: Before the discussion proceeds further, I think I may mention to the House that according to parliamentary and legislative procedure, there is no objection to a Select Committee requesting the Chief Justice or any Judge to be present at and to help, the Select Committee with their advice and guidance in matters appertaining to legislation. There is no objection to that. Therefore, the discussion need not hereafter range round the question of any privilege on the one side or any refusal on the other side. The debate may be continued on the merits of the motion as apart from these matters. In other words, if the Select Committee of this House or of the other House desires the attendance of the Chief Justice or any Judge for the purpose of helping them or guiding them in the course of their deliberations, there is no objection to the Judges attending.

Does any honourable member wish to address the House? (*No member rose in his seat*).

The question that the Travancore Civil Courts Powers (Amendment) Bill be recommitted to the Select Committee was then put t vote and carried.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, before we pass on to the next business I have to make another motion on this Bill. One member of the Select Committee, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, is not able to attend it. I would therefore propose that Mr. Thanu Pillai be added.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Has Mr. Narayana Pillai sent in his resignation or expressed his inability to attend?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, he has not. I would make the motion that Mr. Thanu Pillai be *added* to the Select Committee.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I second the motion.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

[At this stage the Deputy President took the Chair].

THE TRAVANCORE IDENTIFICATION OF PRISONERS BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I rise to introduce a Bill to authorise the taking of measurements and photographs of convicts and others entitled "The Travancore Identification of Prisoners Bill" and beg to move that the Bill be read in the Assembly.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I second the motion.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I shall now briefly explain the principles of the Bill. The object of this Bill is to provide legal authority for the taking of photographs, finger impressions, foot-prints and measurements of persons

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convicted of, or arrested in connection with certain offences. The value of the scientific use of finger impressions and photographs as agents in the detection of crimes and the identification of criminals is well-known; and the value, for the same purpose, of all anthropometric measurements has also been recognised. The existing system by which the Police take finger impressions, photographs, etc., of criminals and suspected criminals is void of legal sanction; and it has been brought to the notice of Government that the Police are handicapped thereby. This Bill is accordingly proposed, and it is drawn on the lines of the British Indian statute on the subject.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I oppose the motion for the introduction of the Bill. The Bill is mischievous and insulting. It is said that the Bill wants to give legal sanction for the taking of photographs, finger prints and measurements of not only convicted persons but also of persons who have not been convicted, but merely arrested.

Any person and every person is likely to be arrested by the Police for any imaginary crime. When a crime is investigated and found by a court of law that the man is innocent the man will be honourably acquitted. But this Bill gives a free hand to the Police, and very wide powers to them, which they are sure to abuse at any moment.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): What is the harm in giving the Police power to take the measurements of persons and foot prints?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Taking of measurements of body and of foot prints is really insulting. As a result of this Bill this Legislature is indirectly permitting honourable citizens to be insulted. No man's honour would be safe. As for that matter no man's life would be safe. Suppose an honourable and innocent person is caught by the Police and ordered to lie down for taking foot prints and measurements (*Laughter*) and he refuses to allow the Police taking such measurements. I am sure the Police will torture him.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Is it in the man's lying down the question of insult arises?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think the expression "lie down" may be avoided, because, so far as I have heard I did not hear the Law Member using that expression. Mr. S. J. Nair will cease to say such things because it is irrelevant.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): For the consideration of the House I submit that this Bill gives legal authority for taking photographs, finger impressions, foot prints and measurements of persons etc. How is it possible to take measurements of persons if a Police officer takes it into his head to take the measurements in a particular manner? That is why I suggested any person, any innocent person will be insulted. Therefore I strongly oppose the principle of the Bill being affirmed.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I can assure my friend Mr. S. J. Nair that he need not

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[Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai.]

entertain any apprehensions in the directions imagined by him. No doubt the measurements of a person may have to be taken even before he is convicted. But that will be done only on justifiable grounds and every measurement so taken will be given back to him if he is not convicted.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know what purpose is served by compelling a person to lie down and take measurements?

MR. KAYALAN PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): We will get the measurements for being used for evidentiary and other purposes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The motion before the House is that the general principle of the Bill be affirmed.

The principle was affirmed.

The Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly read the title of the Bill as "The Travancore Identification of Prisoners Bill."

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of -

Messrs.

T. K. Velu Pillai.
V. T. Chacko.
Mahomed Haneef.
A. Thanu Pillai.
K. C. Abraham.
T. T. Kesavan Sastri.
T. Krishna Pillai.
M. K. Janardhana Kamath.
Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon.
Antony George.
K. Madhavan.

The Committee is to report within four months.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE BAR COUNCIL BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I rise to introduce the Travancore Bar Council Bill and beg to move that the Bill be read in the Assembly.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I second it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, this is a Bill in which Mr. S. J. Nair will be interested and I am sure if the principle of the Bill is accepted he will give the benefit of his advice to the Select Committee. One of the proposals of

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